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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,726	08/25/2003	Karren Moreland	43	2147
26362	7590	12/31/2007		
LOUIS J. HOFFMAN, P.C. 11811 North Tatum Boulevard, Suite 2100 Phoenix, AZ 85028				
			EXAMINER	
			FERGUSON, MICHAEL P	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3679		
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		12/31/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

duff@patentit.com
LJH@patentit.com
shaelyn@patentit.com

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/647,726

Applicant(s)

MORELAND ET AL.

Examiner

Michael P. Ferguson

Art Unit

3679

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 12 December 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 5 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 10-29.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☐ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☒ Other: See Continuation Sheet.


DAVID BAGNELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Continuation of 13. Other:

Claims 10 and 20 have been amended to correct an obvious typographical error which does not affect the rejections of record under 35 USC 102 in view of Moreland (US 6,364,508) and Onishi (US 6,588,711). Such rejections actually disclose a one-piece lock wherein the narrower axis of the body is no wider than the slot of the slotted track, even though original claims 10 and 20 recited "wherein the narrower axis of the body is wider than the slot". Examiner agrees that the newly added limitations of "wherein the narrower axis of the body is no wider than the slot" in claim 10 (line 14) and claim 20 (line 16) overcome the 35 USC 112 rejection of such claims and place the claims in better form for appeal. Accordingly, the amendment has been entered.

As to claims 10 and 20, Attorney argues that:

Moreland (US 6,364,508) does not disclose a one-piece lock wherein the body is sized to fit snugly within the interior of the slotted track when the narrower axis is parallel to the track.

Examiner disagrees. As to claims 10 and 20, Moreland discloses a one-piece lock wherein the body (82) is sized to fit snugly within the interior of the slotted track (20) when the narrower axis is parallel to the track (Figures 1 and 2). Examiner notes that the phrase "to fit snugly" used in claims 10 and 20 has been interpreted as broadly as reasonable to be constituted by a body which fits closely to the interior walls of the track. Accordingly, the Moreland reference has been interpreted to read on such claims. Examiner notes that a frictional engagement between the one-piece lock and the interior walls of the track has not been positively claimed.

As to claims 10 and 20, Attorney argues that:

Onishi (US 6,588,711) does not disclose a one-piece lock wherein the body is sized to fit snugly within the interior of the slotted track when the narrower axis is parallel to the track.

Examiner disagrees. As to claims 10 and 20, Onishi discloses a one-piece lock wherein the body (1) is sized to fit snugly within the interior of the slotted track (2) when the narrower axis is parallel to the track (Figures 1-5B). Examiner notes that the phrase "to fit snugly" used in claims 10 and 20 has been interpreted as broadly as reasonable to be constituted by a body which fits closely to the interior walls of the track. Accordingly, the Onishi reference has been interpreted to read on such claims. Examiner notes that a frictional engagement between the one-piece lock and the interior walls of the track has not been positively claimed.

APPROVED
OK TO
ENTER
MPS
12/19/07

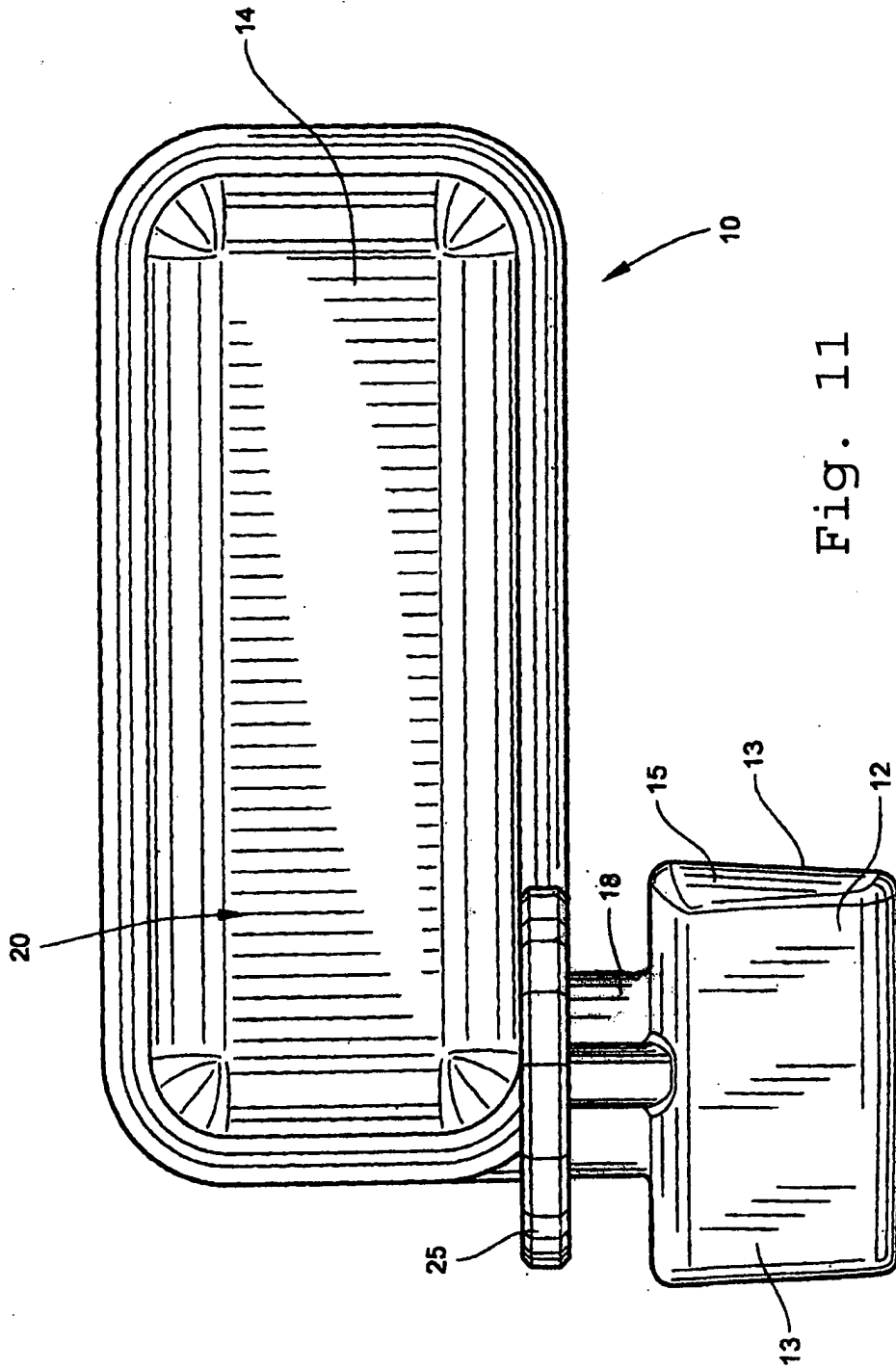


Fig. 11